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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 7, 1998

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

At the relation of the

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUE950089

Ex parte: In the matter of reviewing and considering Commission policy regarding restructuring of and competition in the electric industry

At the relation of the

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUE980138

Ex Parte: In the matter of requiring reports and actions related to independent system operators, regional power exchanges and retail access pilot programs

### ORDER PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON MOTION

On November 25, 1998, the Virginia Committee for Fair Utility Rates (“Virginia Committee”) filed a motion in the above-referenced proceedings (“November 25 Motion”). The Virginia Committee requests that the Commission consolidate certain issues that were raised in the recent rate case, Case No. PUE960296, of Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Virginia Power” or the “Company”) which, at the conclusion of

that proceeding, were transferred to other existing dockets. Specifically, the Virginia Committee moves that the Commission consolidate for consideration in a single hearing the issues and related testimony concerning: (i) the Company's proposed unbundling of rates, currently docketed in Case No. PUE980138; and (ii) the quantification of Virginia Power's stranded costs or stranded benefits, currently under consideration in Case No. PUE950089. The Virginia Committee also requests that the Commission establish a procedural schedule, including setting a hearing for the soonest possible date.

In support of its motion, the Virginia Committee states that the Commission is the proper forum for the analysis of the Company's proposed unbundling of rates and the related issue of stranded cost recovery. The Virginia Committee contends that, given the importance of these issues and the need to develop information on them, to consolidate the two issues into a single hearing would be in the public interest. The Virginia Commission emphasizes that it is not asking that the Commission quantify stranded costs (or benefits) at this time for the purpose of determining rates; rather, it is asking that at the present time the Commission determine "within broad limits, parameters of a utility's potential stranded costs (or margins)." November 25 Motion at 6.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the Virginia Committee's motion, is of the opinion and finds Commission Staff and parties should be provided an opportunity to comment on the November 25 Motion, and for the Virginia Committee to file a reply to any comments that are filed. Accordingly,

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

(1) Any interested party and Staff may file comments on the Virginia Committee's November 25 Motion on or before December 17, 1998.

(2) The Virginia Committee may file a reply to any comments that are submitted on or before December 22, 1998.